

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A door handle assembly comprising:
  - a housing including a first outer wall defining a first aperture therein, a second outer wall defining a second aperture therein, and a partition wall between said first and second outer walls, said partition wall defining a projection extending toward said second outer wall;
  - a latch handle defining a latch handle projection received in one of said apertures of said first and second outer walls and a latch handle aperture receiving said partitioned wall projection therein;
  - a lock lever defining a lock lever projection received in the other of said apertures in said outer walls, and defining a lock lever aperture receiving said projection of said partition wall; and
  - one of said latch handle and said lock lever spanning said partition wall.
2. The door handle assembly of claim 1, said apertures and said projections being in substantially axial alignment.
3. The door handle assembly of claim 2, said latch handle having an extension thereof spanning said partition wall.
4. The latch mechanism of claim 3, said lock lever disposed in a chamber defined between said partition wall and said second outer wall, said latch handle having a panel extending into said chamber, and said lock lever disposed between said panel and said second outer wall.

5. The door handle assembly of claim 4, said lock lever defining a ramp-like surface adjacent said lock lever aperture, said ramp-like surface angling outwardly from an inner portion of said lock lever toward said lock lever aperture.

6. The door handle assembly of claim 4, said second outer wall defining a ramp-like surface angling inwardly in said chamber from an outer edge of said second wall to said aperture defined in said second outer wall.

7. The door handle assembly of claim 4, said projection of said lock lever having an inner portion thereof that angles outwardly in said chamber in a direction toward said second outer wall.

8. The door handle assembly of claim 7, said second outer wall defining a ramp-like surface angling inwardly in said chamber from an outer edge of said second wall to said aperture defined in said second outer wall.

9. The door handle assembly of claim 7, said lock lever defining a ramp-like surface adjacent said lock lever aperture, said ramp-like surface angling outwardly from an inner portion of said lock lever toward said lock lever aperture.

10. The door handle assembly of claim 9, said second outer wall defining a ramp-like surface angling inwardly in said chamber from an outer edge of said second wall to said aperture defined in said second outer wall.

11. A vehicle door handle assembly, comprising:

a housing having first and second outer walls and a partition wall defining a first chamber between said first outer wall and said partition wall and a second chamber between said second outer wall and said partition wall, said first outer wall defining a first outer wall aperture, said second outer wall defining a second outer wall aperture and a said partition wall defining a projection extending into said second chamber;

a latch handle configured to be received substantially in said first chamber and having an extension thereof spanning said partition wall and a panel from said extension disposed in said second chamber, said latch handle defining a latch handle projection received in said first outer wall aperture and a latch handle aperture in said panel receiving said partition wall projection; and

a lock lever configured to be received in said second chamber, said lock lever being disposed between said latch handle partition and said second outer wall, said lock lever defining a lock lever aperture for receiving said partition wall projection and a lock lever projection received in said second outer wall aperture.

12. The door handle assembly of claim 11, including a spring biasing said latch handle.

13. The door handle assembly of claim 11, including a resilient bumper in said first chamber for engaging said latch handle during operation thereof.

14. The door handle assembly of claim 11, including a latch cable extending into said first chamber and connected to said latch handle.

15. The door handle assembly of claim 11, including a lock cable extending into said second chamber and connected to said lock lever.

16. The door handle assembly of claim 11, said lock lever defining a ramp-like surface adjacent said lock lever aperture, said ramp-like surface angling outwardly from an inner portion of said lock lever toward said lock lever aperture.

17. The door handle assembly of claim 11, said second outer wall defining a ramp-like surface angling inwardly in said second chamber from an outer edge of said second wall to said second outer wall aperture.

18. The door handle assembly of claim 11, said lock lever projection having an inner portion thereof that angles outwardly in said chamber in a direction toward said second outer wall.

19. The door handle assembly of claim 11, said apertures have enclosed sides.

20. A method for assembling a vehicle door handle assembly, comprising:

providing a housing defining first and second outer walls and a partition wall therebetween;

providing first and second apertures respectively, in the first and second outer walls;

providing a projection on the partition wall directed toward the second outer wall;

providing a latch handle having an aperture therein and a projection therefrom;

aligning axially the projection of the latch handle with the aperture of the first outer wall and the aperture of the latch handle with the projection of the partition wall;

causing relative lateral movement between the latch handle and the housing and causing the latch handle projection to be received in the first outer wall aperture and the partition wall projection in the latch handle aperture;

providing a lock lever having a lock lever aperture and a lock lever projection;

aligning the lock lever aperture with the partition wall projection substantially parallel thereto but outwardly therefrom, and the lock lever projection with the second outer wall aperture substantially parallel thereto but outwardly therefrom;

urging the lock lever between the partition wall and the second outer wall while deflecting the partition wall and the outer wall outwardly relative to each other; and

engaging the lock lever projection in the second outer wall aperture and the lock lever aperture around the partition wall projection outwardly on the partition wall projection from the latch handle aperture.